

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating a depressive disorder in an animal, said method comprising administering to said animal a compound having CRIF biological activity.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound is a peptide.

5 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound is a peptidomimetic.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound is in a therapeutically effective amount.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound is in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said animal is a human.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound is administered to said animal by a route selected from the group consisting of oral, parenteral, intranasal and central.

15 8. The method of claim 2, wherein said peptide is a CRIF peptide comprising at least three amino acids positioned between the fourth and fifth TRH peptide on a prepro-TRH molecule.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said CRIF peptide comprises from three to twenty two amino acids positioned between the fourth and fifth TRH peptide on a prepro-TRH molecule.

20 10. The method of claim 9, wherein said CRIF peptide comprises the sequence Phe-Ile-Asp-Pro-Glu-Leu-Gln-Arg-Ser-Trp-Glu-Glu-Lys-Glu-Gly-Glu-Gly-Val-Leu-Met-Pro-Glu.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein said CRIF peptide comprises the sequence Phe-Ile-Asp-Pro-Glu-Leu-Gln-Arg-Ser-Trp-Glu-Glu-Thr-Glu-Gly-Glu-Glu-Gly-Gly-Leu-Met-Pro-Glu.

25 12. The method of claim 9, wherein said CRIF peptide comprises the sequence Glu-Gly-Glu-Gly-Val-Leu-Met-Pro-Glu.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein said CRIF peptide comprises the sequence Leu-Met-Pro-Glu.

14. The method of claim 8, wherein said CRIF peptide comprises from three to twenty six amino acids positioned between the fourth and fifth TRH peptide on a prepro-TRH molecule.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said CRIF peptide comprises the sequence Leu-Ala-Asp-Pro Lys-Ala-Gln-Arg-Ser-Trp-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Arg-Glu-Glu-Asp-Leu-Met-Pro-Glu.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein said depressive disorder is selected from the group consisting of major depression, minor depression, bipolar disorders, dysthymia, cyclothymia, and premenstrual syndrome.